PRESENT—*cont.*

Venkatapati Raju, Mr. P. C.
Venkataramana Ayyangar, Mr. C. V.
Venkatarangam Nayudu, Mr. C.
Venkiah, Mr. S.
Watson, I.C.S., Mr. H. A.
Wood, Mr. C. E.
Wright, Mr. W. O.
Zamindar of Kallikota (Sri Ramachandra Mardaraja Deo).
Zamindar of Seithur (Vadamalai Tiruvanatha Sevuga Pandiya Tevar Avargal).
Zamindar of Singampatti (T. N. Sivasubrahmanya Tevar Thirthapathi).

I

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS

Agriculture

Cultivation of arecanuts in Government agricultural farms.

* 1733 *Q.*—Mr. K. MADHAVAN NAYAR: Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any of the agricultural farms under the Government are conducting any experiment into the proper method of cultivating, growing and manuring arecanut trees;

(*b*) whether there is any farm or portions of farms specially devoted to arecanut tree plantation;

(*c*) whether arecanuts form an important agricultural product in the West Coast; and

(*d*) whether the Government will favourably consider the question of opening an experimental farm specially devoted to the growth of arecanut trees?

A.—(*a*) No. But the department has devoted a great deal of attention to the control of the fungoid diseases of arecanut palms with the result that several millions of them are now sprayed regularly each year on the West Coast to protect their fruit from attack.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) The bulk of the area under arecanut in the Presidency lies on the West Coast.

(*d*) Arecanuts are a crop of comparatively minor importance and the Government are unable to open an experiment station to study this crop until the needs of the main crops have been met much more fully than they have been at present.

Mr. K. MADHAVAN NAYAR:—"Will the the hon. Minister for Development be pleased to state whether he is prepared to consider the desirability of devoting a portion of any of the Agricultural farms in the West Coast for the purpose of experimenting in arecanut tree cultivation?"

The hon. Mr. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR:—"The matter will be examined."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"With respect to the answer to clause (*d*) that arecanuts are a crop of comparatively minor importance, may I know the value of the arecanut produced in this Presidency?"

The hon. Mr. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR:—"Value means price?"